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April 6, 2011

Chairman Gregory B. Jackzo  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Chairman Jackzo:

Thank you for the briefing last week. We share your heightened concern related to the recent incidents at the nuclear facilities in Japan. The NRC is under tremendous pressure as we address this continuing crisis while learning how to reduce the likelihood of a similar tragedy in the future. We hope to continue an open dialogue in the weeks and months ahead.

In the meantime, we write with three requests:

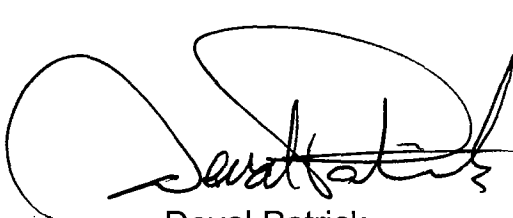
1. As your team offered, please provide a specific list of near term and longer term activities that will occur at Pilgrim to assure that we are continuing to operate the plant safely and learning as much as possible, as quickly as possible, as we can from the tragedy in Japan. As we understand, in the next few weeks this will include self assessments by Pilgrim and inspections from the NRC which MA officials will be invited to participate.

We know we all learned, changed our practices and made new investments to enhance safe operations after the experiences at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and 9-11 and want to be sure that we learn and act on our new knowledge from the tragedy in Japan at Pilgrim.

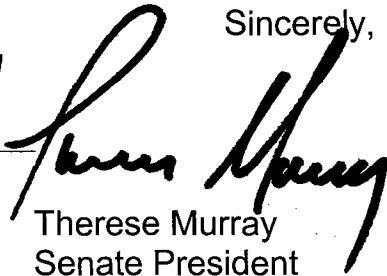
2. The Japan tragedy developments have identified two specific areas of vulnerability we want to make sure we are fully addressing:
  - i. Spent fuel – as we have all known, our temporary storing of spent fuel on site is a major concern. Japan’s experiences have dramatically increased this concern. We want your team to look again at the vulnerabilities and alternatives to the current practices at Pilgrim.
  - ii. Seismic vulnerability – we appreciate that mistaken reporting by MSNBC incorrectly identified Pilgrim as the second most vulnerable nuclear core to be damaged in a seismic event and further, that the NRC public statement which excluded Pilgrim in the list of plants in need of further seismic assessment was also incorrect. Also, we understand that the NRC had already engaged the Electric Power Research Institute and the Department of Energy to re-assess nuclear facility specific seismic vulnerabilities and that this study will in fact include Pilgrim. As we understood from the briefing, this study as scheduled may take more than a year to complete. We request that you accelerate the study schedule and to make sure all relevant scientific and engineering input is included,
3. We request that you inform us of all Pilgrim relicensing actions (by all actions, we literally mean all actions, even minor procedural actions) and encourage you to not proceed with any steps towards relicensing until we can all be sure that we have learned what we need to from the experience in Japan.

We will also be forwarding under separate cover specific questions from Massachusetts’s legislative leaders and look forward to your response to the above requests as well as the Legislature’s questions. Thank you for your time and for your continued service.


Sincerely,



Deval Patrick  
Governor



Therese Murray  
Senate President



Robert DeLeo  
Speaker

cc: Bill Dean NRC region 1